

CHINA MAIL

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LAND-GRABBING GRACE Soviet Designs On Persia And Turkey

LONDON, DEC. 27.
A RACE WOULD SEEM TO BE TAKING PLACE NOW BETWEEN THREE SOVIET REPUBLICS—AZERBAIJAN, ARMENIA AND GEORGIA TO ASSIMILATE GREAT HUNGS OF PREVIOUSLY FOREIGN TERRITORY FROM PERSIA AND TURKEY. PERSIAN AZERBAIJAN STILL PROCLAIMS ITS ADHERENCE TO THE TEHERAN GOVERNMENT. BUT THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN THAT SUCH CONDITION IS BEING LIVED UP TO, AND UNLESS ALL PERSIA CHANGES THE GOVERNMENTAL FORM, IT IS MORE THAN PROBABLE THAT THE TABRIZ GOVERNMENT WILL EVENTUALLY BEG TO JOIN UP WITH THAT OF BAKU. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMOURS WHICH ARE PROBABLY PREMATURE, THAT SIMILAR COUPS ARE BEING PREPARED IN PERSIA'S OTHER NORTHERN PROVINCES.

Troops Walk Off British Transport

LIVERPOOL, DEC. 26.
THREE HUNDRED ANGRY BRITISH SOLDIERS WALKED OFF THE TROOPSHIP "ORION" AND MADE PROTEST AGAINST THE LIVING CONDITIONS ABOARD.

They battled with military police who tried to force them back for a Christmas Eve sailing to the Middle East. Several were injured. Officials were pelted with tin cans and small objects.

Last night 700 soldiers walked off but were forced to return. Some started aglow again this morning and when the police tried again to detain them, their comrades scrambled down to help.

The soldiers said the ship was overcrowded and the food conditions bad and unsanitary. They were headed to the Middle East to relieve other forces which were due for leave or demobilisation.

Associated Press.

Stabbed With Own Bayonet

HOKKAIDO, DEC. 27.
THE DISCLOSURE THAT AN AMERICAN SENTRY WAS KILLED ON DEC. 19 BY THREE JAPANESE WAS MADE TODAY WITH THE ARREST OF ONE SUSPECT.

The sentry, whose name was not given, was stabbed with his own bayonet during an early morning fight with three Japanese whom he surprised attempting to raid a government food store. This is the first killing of this nature that has occurred in Hokkaido.

The 11th Corps Provost Marshal's office said that 18-year-old Katsurori Tame, a reformatory inmate, confessed to his part in the killing and will be tried by a Military Commission.

The two other suspects are still at large. Associated Press.

STORM WORSE IN THE CHANNEL

LONDON, DEC. 27.
THE WEEK-OLD STORM INCREASED IN FURY OVER THE ENGLISH CHANNEL, DRIVING MANY SHIPS TO COVER AND STRANDING THOUSANDS OF CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TRAVELLERS.

Torrential hail and rain, blown by a 60-mile an hour gale, lashed at the Straits of Dover and whipped the seas into mountainous waves.

The pounding seas breached sea walls in some English ports and drove away Coast Guard crews and mine disposal squads who battled the mine menace while workmen frantically repaired sea walls to prevent the flooding of towns. Associated Press.

KEEPING CHECK

TOKYO, Dec. 27.
In a directive "revolutionary" for Japanese statisticians, General MacArthur to-day ordered 11 offices to maintain weekly statistics to disclose an up-to-date picture of Japan's economy. The statistics will replace the monthly quarterly and semi-annual statistics formerly kept by the Japanese. They will cover everything from "wholesales and retail price indices to kilowatts of electric power consumed, amusements and income taxes and bank deposits." Associated Press.

P.W.s Still Missing

CAIRO, DEC. 27.
TWO BRITISH OFFICERS WHO WENT DUCK-SHOOTING ON A LAKE A FEW MILES TO THE EAST OF ALEXANDRIA, HAVE BEEN MURDERED BY EGYPTIAN FISHERMEN, THE EGYPTIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES IN CAIRO STATED TO-NIGHT.

THE BODY OF ONE OF THEM, FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. G. GORDON, OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, HAS ALREADY BEEN FOUND IN THE LAKE. THE BODY OF THE OTHER WHO WAS A NAVAL OFFICER HAS NOT YET BEEN RECOVERED.

When the Egyptian Police were informed that the two officers had failed to report for duty after the shooting expedition, investigations were immediately started.

Following the finding of Lieutenant-Gordon's body, three fishermen were arrested and the Police stated that they had confessed to taking part in the murder of the two officers.

Investigations are proceeding but in the meantime the theory is held by the Police that robbery was the motive.

Memories of a gang suspected of attacks on British Service personnel at lonely spots around Cairo, wounded an R.A.F. corporal at Helopoli last night.

The Japanese Government has been given until Dec. 31 to submit a complete report. Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 27.

The Army's grocery bill for October totalled \$59,000,000, the smallest since summer 1942. A

BIG THREE MINISTERS REACH ACCORD

MOSCOW, DEC. 27.
ADVISERS AND EXPERTS WORKED INTO LAST NIGHT ON DRAFTS OF AGREEMENTS REACHED BY THE "BIG THREE" FOREIGN MINISTERS, HIGHLIGHTED BY A COMPROMISE ACCORD ON THE PROCEDURE FOR DRAFTING EUROPEAN PEACE SETTLEMENTS. A BRITISH SOURCE SAID THE COMMUNIQUE WAS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY. INFORMED QUARTERS SAID FOREIGN COMMISSIONER MOLOTOV, FOREIGN SECRETARY BEVIN AND SECRETARY OF STATE BYRNES PLANNED ANOTHER MEETING BEFORE ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH MAY HAVE REACHED AGREEMENTS OF HIS TORIC SIGNIFICANCE.

Hope was offered for an accord for ending the impasse over peace treaties which caused the collapse of the five-power foreign ministers' conference in London last October.

An announcement issued by the "Big Three" Foreign Ministers last night said they agreed on procedure for peace terms with Germany's European satellites "except in the case of other members of the United Nations who will be invited to take part in sessions on questions which concern them."

The announcement said terms will be submitted to a conference of representatives of 21 active belligerents who fought for the Allied cause, to be convened not later than May 1, 1946.

In the meantime, the announcement added, deputies of the five-power council of Foreign Ministers will resume work in London. The "Big Three" conference asked France and China to give approval to their agreement.

CLOSED TOGETHER

The announcement issued as the tri-power conference drew to a close, is regarded by foreign diplomats in Moscow as a fair compromise on the positions taken at the recent unsuccessful meeting of the council of Foreign Ministers in London. These quarters expressed the belief the major powers now stand closer together than they have in months.

Byrnes said he was pleased with the results of the conference.

Four and a half hours later the Ministers were still in session—the longest meeting to date.

A communiqué covering the business conducted at the Conference is expected to be issued at 2 a.m. on Thursday. It was reported that Secretary Byrnes had no idea that an actual agreement could be made on the peace treaties when he came and observers recalled his statement upon arrival in Moscow that one should not be surprised if no agreements were reached at the Conference.

The three men soon discovered they could do more than simply explore—as was the original expectation—and then they got down to discussing issues and decisions which could be taken.

Informed sources said the agreement on the peace treaty procedure was very close to the compromise formula by Byrnes at the five-power conference of Foreign Ministers in London.

The American delegation took a favourable view of the first statement—that the peace terms should be drawn up by those nations which signed the armistice terms with Germany's European satellites "except in the case of other members of the United Nations who will be invited to take part in the decisions of questions which concern them" and that the deputies of the five-power council of

(Continued on Page 6)

TEMPERATURE 48

Forecast for to-day:—Light northerly winds, fine; rather cold. Yesterday's temperature:—Minimum 48 degrees at 6 a.m. Maximum 65 degrees at 1 p.m.

British Live In Comfort On The Rhine

(By Henry Buckley, Reuter's Correspondent).

THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION IN BERLIN IS STEADILY BUILDING UP A LARGE ORGANISATION, READY TO FUNCTION AS AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNING BODY OF GERMANY AS SOON AS CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES, SUCH AS FRENCH OPPOSITION, ARE REMOVED.

OVER 1,700 BRITISH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ARE NOW EMPLOYED AT THE BRITISH CONTROL COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS AND THE NUMBER IS STEADILY INCREASING.

This Commission is to-day a mixed civilian and military organisation but the aim is to make it entirely civilian as soon as possible.

"Other ranks" live mainly in large blocks of flats. Officers live in 100 pleasant villas in Grunewald, a wooded suburb in Berlin's West End.

There are 40 messes which range from private homes of senior officials, who live in style with a butler and a household staff, of their own to junior messes, where up to 60 may eat. A number of officers share each villa or flat, where the house is divided into flats.

The food consists of Army rations with a certain amount of supplementary vegetables. The food is usually available and the general level of feeding is definitely better than that of the average family living on its rations at home in Britain.

The officers estimated that some 9,000 volunteers had arrived.

Finally they were quartered in flats and submitted into the building 300 at a time while the soldiers did their turn into the barracks to find a place.

At nightfall only one-third of the number had entered. Aided

Bevin Sees Stalin

London, Dec. 27.
The Moscow Radio states that British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin was received by Generalissimo Stalin today.

Generalissimo Stalin received the British Foreign Secretary at the Kremlin in the presence of the Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Molotov, the British Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Sir Alexander Cadogan, the British Ambassador to Moscow, Sir Archibald Clark-Kennedy, and the Soviet Ambassador to London. —Reuter.

Attempt To Kill Sultan Sjahrir

BATAVIA, DEC. 27.
SHOTS WERE FIRED AT SULTAN SJAHIR, PREMIER OF THE UNRECOGNISED INDONESIAN REPUBLIC, AND HE WAS CLUBBED WITH A PISTOL BUTT IN WHAT ANETA NEWS AGENCY SAID APPARENTLY WAS AN ATTEMPT BY SEVERAL NEITHERLANDS INDIES SOLDIERS TO STEAL HIS AUTO- MOBILE YESTERDAY.

"I don't think they knew who I was," Sjahrir was quoted as saying afterward.

Four Eurasians, in Dutch uniforms pulled alongside the premier's car, fired three bullets against the hood, forcing him to halt. Sjahrir said he got out of the vehicle and was struck with the pistol butt.

British police who came to Sjahrir's aid arrested several Eurasians at the scene.

The 36-year-old premier is a key figure in Indonesian-Allied relations and has urged moderation on his followers. He returned Tuesday from a tour of Java. During his absence, the British arrested several Eurasians attempting to break into his Batavia home. —Associated Press.

King's Xmas Broadcast

SANDRIGHAM, DEC. 27.
KING GEORGE VI, ADDRESSING HIS SUBJECTS FROM SANDRIGHAM HOUSE, WHERE THE ROYAL FAMILY IS SPENDING ITS FIRST CHRISTMAS IN SIX YEARS, ON TUESDAY PROCLAIMED CHRISTMAS, 1945, "A REAL HOME-COMING TO US ALL, IN WHICH THE HOMELY AND FRIENDLY THINGS OF LIFE CAN AGAIN BE OURS."

Broadening from the holly and mistletoe bedecked study where his father inaugurated the Christmas day massacre, the King sent a special greeting to "the men and women of every race within the Empire, returning from long services to the ways of peace."

He also greeted "the children, now freed from the unnatural fears of a blocked out world, celebrating this Christmas in the light of the happiness of a family circle once more reunited."

The King said: "To the younger of you I would not a special word. Do not judge life by what you have seen in it in the 'triumphs and woes of war,' nor by the confusion of the first years of peace. Have faith in life, it's best and bring to it your courage, your hopes, and your sense of humour." —Associated Press.

17 DEAD IN XMAS TRAGEDY

HARTFORD, DEC. 27.
A CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE IN A SMALL INSTITUTION FOR CONVALESCENTS AND CHRONICALLY ILL BROUGHT DEATH TO 17 PERSONS LAST NIGHT AND SENT 27 TO HOSPITAL, SEVERAL IN A CRITICAL CONDITION.

Thirteen of the dead were women and two men. Most were residents of the Hartford area. The tree flared up when the nimble unlit the extension cord leading to the lights and within a few minutes the interior of the three story brick building was a mass of flame.

With the exception of two kitchen employees all the dead were patients. —Associated Press.

CROSSING TRAGEDY

Gaffney, S. Carolina, Dec. 27.
Seven persons were killed instantly in a collision between an automobile in which they were riding and a southern railroad passenger train near here Christmas Day. Officials said a freezing rain and poor visibility were to blame. —Associated Press.

MINERS TRAPPED

Clayville, Kentucky, Dec. 27.
From 30 to 50 miners are believed to have been trapped in a mine about two miles back from town. A coal chamber was torn down and the miners were cut off from the outside world.

THE CHINA MAIL

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GOODWILL GESTURE

The agreement between Britain and France for the complete withdrawal of the military forces of both sides from the Levant ends a most unsatisfactory and unhappy situation and ensures close co-operation in the future. The chief cause of the friction, which earlier this year, caused Britain to intervene against France to prevent the Arab League from resorting to open hostilities in support of Syrian and Lebanese nationalists, resided in the failure of Britain and France to coordinate their policies towards the Arab world. Only the future can decide whether French policy in the Levant States or British policy in Egypt and Iraq was, in the first report, better fitted to promote harmonious relations between the western Powers and the middle East, but, recent events, have shown only too clearly that to pursue both policies simultaneously was fatal. British policy, save for anxieties over Zionism, has been preyed upon by the rising forces of Arab nationalism, which showed themselves unduly sceptical of French good faith because France had not endeavoured to promote the interests of her mandated territories along the precise lines favoured by her ally. From this divergence a whole chain of evil consequences followed. The Arab nationalists singled France out for attack; France resented resistance to her influence, was inclined to question the reality and importance of Arab nationalism, and was convinced that her difficulties arose only from the hidden hand of British intrigue. Britain, observing the difficulties to which she was exposed by the resentment of the Arab countries against the policy of France, perhaps too readily concluded that this policy was inspired only by a determination to cling to a historic connection. The Levant Republics found it to their interest to magnify the contrast between French and British policies and they have tended to show themselves less and less ready to make the concessions which a final solution of the difficulties would demand from them as well as from each of the other parties. France and Britain have now made a move in agreement which should dispel Levant suspicions and permit of yet fuller harmony in relations.

Constable Refused Duty

A Shantung Police constable No. D320, Cheng Pei-foo, attached to Central Police Station, was charged before Mr. A. el Arculli at the Summary Military Court yesterday with refusing duty on December 22.

Accused pleaded not guilty. It was alleged that accused failed to report for duty after he was given two days leave on December 14. He should have reported for duty on December 16. When asked why he had not reported for duty, his answer was: "I refuse to work for the British."

According to Inspector Moran, accused reported for duty after the re-accusation of the Colony and was stationed at Central Police Station. He was on Sept. 9 admitted to hospital and was discharged on Dec. 14. Leave for two days was granted on the recommendation of a medical certificate.

Accused was seen by Chinese Sub-Inspector Si Wal-ming on Dec. 22 and was taken to Central Police Station, was charged before Mr. A. el Arculli at the Summary Military Court yesterday with refusing duty on December 22.

Accused pleaded not guilty. It was alleged that accused failed to report for duty after he was given two days leave on December 14. He should have reported for duty on December 16. When asked why he had not reported for duty, his answer was: "I refuse to work for the British."

He was then warned by Mr. Arculli to behave himself and confined himself to facts concerning the case.

After further evidence, Mr. Arculli found accused guilty.

Inspector Moran said he was instructed to ask the Court to impose a prison sentence, which the defendant was sentenced to six months.

HONG KONG CELEBRATES IN ATMOSPHERE OF GOODWILL

BLACK MARKET DRIVE

Shanghai, Dec. 27.
Confiscation of all United States government property dumped in the Shanghai black-market has been ordered by the Army authorities here. Criminal investigation agents have been authorized to arrest civilians as well as military spyards. —Associated Press.

CORRESPONDENCE
BUS SERVICE TO POKFULAM

Sir.—May I, through your esteemed paper, ask the officers, who are in control of transport, to consider the provision of a bus service for Pokfulam? Before the war, there was a regular service from the Vehicular Ferry Wharf to the Queen Mary Hospital.

One realises that, owing to the shortage of vehicles, Government has not been able to resume all the bus services. However, a service to the Queen Mary Hospital is a most urgent need. Not only are residents in the district, particularly children, who have to go to school, but also members of the Dairy Farm and hospital staff, persons who have relatives or friends as patients in the hospital and those who, themselves, may have to call at the hospital for treatment.

Until more vehicles are available, a bus or even a converted truck running between the Police Station, West Point (at the corner of Western Street and Des Voeux Road West, where there is a tram stop) and Queen Mary Hospital would serve the purpose.

The above suggestion is earnestly commended to the authorities for their kind consideration and approval.

Yours faithfully,
RESIDENT

Magistrate Criticises Complainants In Robbery

THE COURT WISHES IT TO BE KNOWN THAT IT HOLDS NO HIGH OPINION OF THE MASTER AND FOKIS OF THE CHEUNG SHING PIG DEALERS SHOP WHO WERE SUPINE ENOUGH TO BE DETERRED BY THE ACCUSED AND HIS ACCOMPLICES FROM MAKING A REPORT OF THE ROBBERY TO THE POLICE.

THE ABOVE CRITICISM WAS LEVELED BY THE STANDING MILITARY COURT YESTERDAY AT ONE OF THE COMPLAINANTS IN AN ARMED ROBBERY CASE FOR FAILURE IN REPORTING THE ROBBERY COMMITTED ON DEC. 1, TO THE POLICE AU-

THORITIES.

The Court comprised Mr. Leo d'Almada (President), Mr. D. H. Blake and Mr. Horace Lo. Mr. F. X. d'Almada and Det. Sub-Asst. J. R. Sykes were for the prosecution.

The case was that in which an unemployed Chinese, Cheng Hei, 24, was charged on two counts with armed robbery. The first count was that, on Nov. 29, at Room No. 512 of the Sun Sun Hotel, he robbed Lui Kwai of two gold rings, a wrist watch and \$120, and Yuen Mui of \$20 and C.N. \$100.00.

On the second count he was charged with robbing the master and fokis of the Cheung Shing pig dealers shop, of No. 99, Tung Choi Street of \$1,800.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada said that at about 10 p.m. on Nov. 29 Lui Kwai on returning to his room following a telephone call was forced to open the door to two Chinese men. The men produced revolvers and started to search the occupants. They took from Lui Kwai the rings and watch. On Yuen Mui they found nothing but a key to the wardrobe in which they got the N.C. \$100.00.

Regarding the second robbery, Mr. d'Almada said that on Dec. 1 at about 8.30 p.m. accused, with others not in custody entered the Cheung Shing shop and held up the occupants. They proceeded to search the fokis. They got the key to the safe and took the money.

Before leaving the robbers warned the manager and others not to report the matter to the Police and accused was arrested, on information, on board a junk lying off Kowloon.

Passing sentence Mr. Leo d'Almada said: "The Court wishes it to be known that it holds no high opinion of the master and fokis of the Cheung Shing pig-dealers shop who were supine enough to be deterred by the accused and his accomplices from making a report of the robbery to the Police."

CIVIC-MINDED

"Conduct of this kind is not calculated to help in the main-

tenance of law and order in this Colony and in these days when the police are short-handed it is particularly desirable that people should be civic-minded and co-operate at least to the extent of reporting to the police crimes which have been committed."

"As regards sentence, accused seems to have embarked on a career of crime. Were it not for information of the first robbery at least he would still be exploiting the people of Kowloon in the way he has done in these two robberies. The robberies were perpetrated within two days of one another despite the fact that both in this court and in the summary courts of offences such as robberies and larcenies have been visited by very heavy penalties."

"There is no possibility of considering accused's request that he be banished so that he could, we presume, pursue his career somewhere else."

"He will instead go to prison on the first count for seven years' hard labour and six strokes of the cane. On charge B he will go to prison for eight years' hard labour and also receive six strokes of the cane."

The sentences will be concurrent but the whipping will be six strokes in all."

NOON TIME SIGNAL

The Naval Authorities announced that, until further notice, H.M.S. Duke of York will fire a gun at noon each day.

In pre-war days, guns were fired at noon every day at East Point and by H.M.S. Tamar at 1 p.m. Other signals were the timbrel at noon from Blackhead, H.M.S. Hope's Hill, and the bell at 1 p.m. from the British Gun.

CHINESE EXCHANGE

Chungking, Dec. 27.
The Government Spokesman, P. H. Chang, told a press conference to-day that the question of establishing a realistic exchange rate in China, was still under consideration.

The Chinese press credited the Ministry of Finance with a statement branding as completely groundless reports that a new currency would be introduced on Jan. 1. —Associated Press.

11,000 Communists In Kwangtung

CANTON, DEC. 27.
KUOMINTANG SOURCES SAID TO-DAY THEY ESTIMATE 11,000 WELL ARMED COMMUNIST ADHERENTS ARE SCATTERED THROUGH THREE SPECIFIC KWANGTUNG PROVINCE AREAS. THERE ARE ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 6,000 ALONG THE EAST RIVER VALLEY, MOSTLY AROUND WAICHOW; APPROXIMATELY 2,000 IN CHUNGSHAN COUNTY, SOUTH-WEST OF CANTON, AND OVER 3,000 IN TUNG-HUAN COUNTY, ALSO ON THE EAST RIVER SOUTH-EAST OF CANTON. THEY ARE REPORTED TO BE ADEPT AT MUSTERING AND DISPERSING QUICKLY WHEN OCCASION ARISES.

The 12th group army, which includes or other irregulars who were causing trouble with their minor forces.

The Chinese military increased guards around the American billet area and airport installations over Christmas after rumours that Chinese irregulars might attempt to provoke and incident. Nothing untoward occurred, however.

Similar rumours circulated three weeks ago, but nothing happened then.

Most American officers were invited Christmas Eve to a party given by Lt.-Gen. Sun Li-jen, hero of the Burma campaign and commanding general of the American-equipped first army. —Associated Press.

The body of an unknown Chinese woman was found floating near the Star Ferry wharf early on Wednesday morning. She was dressed in black and appeared to be from a respectable family.

Inquest On Seaman

An inquest was held on Christmas Eve in Kowloon into the death of Q.M. Kenneth MacPhail, S.S. "Fort Duvegan", by Lt. Nigel.

There was no jury. The deceased was missing from his ship off Kowloon Bay on the early morning of November 10.

The body was found on the beach near Kowloon Docks by Ng Ng five days later.

Dr. R. E. Alvares, who examined the body, testified that he found no evidence of foul play. Death was believed to be by accidental drowning.

Lt. Nigel found that death was caused by accidental drowning, probably when the deceased attempted to reach his boat and slipped into the water.

Commando Killed

RFM. H. M. J. COOK, OF NO. 5 COMMANDO, WAS KILLED WHEN A JEEP OF WHICH HE WAS THE ONLY OCCUPANT, RAN OVER THE EMBANKMENT ON THE FANLING-TAIPO ROAD ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT.

The funeral took place at Happy Valley yesterday afternoon, the No. 5 Commando Chaplain, the Rev. Arthur Collesshaw, officiating at the graveside.

Among those who attended was Brig. H. D. Fellowes, Commanding Officer of 3 Commando Brigade.

COST OF LIVING HIGHER

The official cost of living index figures issued by Government, to be used as the basis for the wages sliding scale, has since the first week in December shown a tendency to rise.

Increases in the cost of fish and pork are primarily responsible.

Figures for the last three weeks follow:

Commodities.	Catties.	Week ending 8. 12. 45.	Week ending 15. 12. 45.	Week ending 22. 12. 45.	Week ending 29. 12. 45.
Rice.....	7.5	\$ 1.4400	\$ 1.4400	\$ 1.4400	\$ 1.4400
Vegetables.....	1.0	.9500	1.0200	.9500	
Salt Cabbage.....	2	.1420	.1420	.1380	
Oil.....	.7	1.4500	1.0500	1.0170	
Total.....	2	.9420	.9600	.9600	
Balt Fish.....	.2	.3810	.5200	.6720	
Fish.....	.4	.4000	.4160	.4520	
Pork.....	.3	.9510	.9690	1.1430	
Firewood.....	10.0	1.1000	.9000	.9000	
Bean Curd, 14 pds.		2.8000	2.7000	2.7000	
		\$ 8.0050	\$ 8.7370	\$ 9.8720	

Tenancy Tribunals Sit

THE KOWLOON TENANCY TRIBUNALS WERE VERY BUSY YESTERDAY WHEN TWO COURTS WERE IN SESSION WITH MESSRS. F. X. D'ALMADA, F. C. MOW-FUNG AND WONG SEK-CHUNG IN THE "A" COURT AND HORACE LO, FR. GRANELLI AND H. M. SHIU IN COURT "B."

The first case in "A" involved Tam Fat, owner of 14, Mongkok Road, who, represented by Mr. C. Y. Kwan, applied for an order of eviction against Kok Yuen Ki, tenant of the premises.

The applicant through Mr. Kwan testified that before the war, Kok was not the tenant. In 1942, the Japanese ordered the tenants of the first three floors to vacate the premises. Policemen shifted in and took over the flats. The opponent was a policeman and hence moved into the third floor.

IN 1944 the owner went to collect rent but was refused. Later he asked for a rent of ten yen but the opponent only paid him four. The opponent said that he was not willing to pay the present rent of \$41. He was ordered to pay the amount of \$41. He was ordered to be evicted from the premises before the end of this month.

HIGHER RENT.

Leon Kui, agent for the owner of No. 98, Cheung Sha Wan Road, was the applicant in the next case. He said that the ground floor was rented to Leung Kam and on her death, the tenant was Tsang Chuen. The applicant said that she only rented the premises to one Ng Sing, proprietor of the firm Tin Sing. Ng left Hong Kong in December, 1944, and the opponent took over. She had refused any rent as she did not want to recognise Tsang as tenant.

Tsang said that he was partner of Tin Sing and that the rent receipts were written out in the name of Tin Sing and not of Ng. However, he had no proof of his partnership. The case was adjourned to Saturday.

Mr. E. S. C. Brooks acted for the owner of 60, Po Ho Street, ground floor. Li Ping, against the tenant Wong Yuk Kee. Sufficient evidence was produced and as the opponent was not in court, an order for eviction was given. The tenants were ordered to move out before the end of this month.

PRE-WAR RENT.

Tang Mak Shi was the applicant in the next case against Shi He Wan, the tenant of No. 1, Hillwood Road, 1st floor. The applicant wanted the rent to be \$180 instead of \$40 which was the amount Shi had been paying. As this was not the amount paid pre-war and \$180 was proved to be the right sum, the tenant was ordered to pay \$180.

As regards broken windows, white ants under the flooring and leakage of pipes, the owner was ordered to repair them if he wanted to collect \$180 rent.

GUIDERS' MEETING.

The Guiders' Meeting arranged for to-day has now been postponed to the following Friday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. in the Fleet Club.

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Enjoy

KUOMINTANG AND RUSSIA

Communists Urge More Confidence In Relations

Mao's Statement Of Faith

(By John Roderick).

YENAN, Dec. 27. THE CHINESE AT THIS COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS HOLD THAT ONLY WITH SOVIET PARTICIPATION CAN A FINAL AND THOROUGH SOLUTION OF PACIFIC PROBLEMS BE REACHED." THAT HAS BEEN THE TENOR OF FORMAL AND IN-FORMAL TALKS I HAVE HAD WITH PARTY AND MILITARY MEN DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS AND IT WAS DEFINITELY STATED BY THE PARTY CHAIRMAN MAO-TSE-TUNG'S REPORT TO THE 7TH PARTY CONGRESS BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR.

"We hold," Mao said, "that the recent gestures of help by Russia in the National Government effort to regain Manchuria probably caused some suspicion."

While accepting Russian professions of unity under the Sino-Soviet treaty, the Chinese Communists nevertheless urged the Allied Governments "not to allow their foreign policies to go against the will of the Chinese people."

Before the Japanese surrender, the question of American intervention arose and Mao declared that any foreign government would commit a gross mistake if it supported "Chinese reactionary elements who oppose the democratic cause of the Chinese people."

This came at a time when Russia was supporting the Kuomintang to the exclusion of the Chinese Communists.

RACISM PREJUDICE?

This question naturally arises. Does all this indicate that the Chinese Communists have had a basic prejudice against the United States and a particular liking for Russia?

The Communists insist it doesn't. They say capitalist nations behaved for 20 years that Russia was the centre of a plot for a world revolution which these nations still fear.

They cite in support of the latter contention Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, and in the Adminstration will be burned publicly on New Year's Day.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has ordered public destruction of the soot after a meeting of Municipal Government officials, teachers, catholics, protestants and priests, and no one can doubt that 60,000 sooties would be sufficient to be presented for individual punishment.

Hundreds of sooties have been seized during the past four months and the Central Government has announced that smother can be put to death for a third violation of the anti-smoking laws. They will face execution on conviction. Associated Press.

Canton, Dec. 26. Telephone communication between Canton and Shinkwan, the wartime government capital, has been re-established.

Calls are limited to three minutes each, and the charge is CN\$450 a call. Our Own Correspondent.

THE THREE MONKEYS

San Francisco, Dec. 27. The San Francisco Chronicle in an editorial quip following the conviction of Lieut. General Yamashita and his sentence to hang for atrocities committed by his troops in the Philippines, said: "The three monkeys that spoke no evil, heard no evil and saw no evil will kindly move over and make room for Yamashita." Associated Press.

C.-IN-C.'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

In his Christmas Day broadcast over B.B.C. H.E. Rear Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt-Smith.

The first Christmas message to the world was "Peace on earth goodwill towards men" or as some more recent translations have put it "Peace on earth to men of goodwill" and it is certain that there can be no peace on earth except between men of goodwill. And the outstanding feature of Christmas is that every one tries to express goodwill, at any rate during this great festival in order to secure permanent peace it is necessary for every day to be of goodwill.

As part of my contribution to peace I would like personally to thank all those who have contributed so much towards the reconstruction of the Colony of Hong Kong during the past four months. I would like to thank all of you in the Armed Forces and in the Civil Administration for the very good work that has been put into the task, and especially for the excellent team spirit that has prevailed. But I am sure that everyone in the Forces and in the Administration will agree with me that it would not have been possible to accomplish even that which we have done without the excellent co-operation, initiative, resourcefulness and goodwill of the great population of the Colony. I would like to stress this point and to thank every one of you who has contributed his or her share to our rehabilitation. Speaking for myself I would like to add what a real pleasure it has been to work with GOING FORWARD

We have accomplished some things of which we need not be ashamed, but we must not be satisfied with that. We must continue to press on. As many of you know, there is no such thing in nature as the status quo. Everything in nature is either going forward or going backward.

Hence the importance of always making certain that we are going forward. There are many difficulties ahead. There are many problems that we have not yet been able to begin to solve. We don't pretend that we have been able to get through this period without making any mistakes, and I dare say that there are many of you who feel that you have complaints justifiable complaints. I would only add that we are doing our best to remedy them, and to-night would ask you to pause and remember some of the good that has been accomplished. Possibly you may be hindered.

But now I would like to turn to another aspect of Christmas Day.

Four years ago to-day Hong Kong surrendered and many of you may be thinking of Christmas Day as the day of surrender. To many of you on this Christmas Day especially may come and memories of those who fell—who gave their lives that liberty might once more walk the world. To those of you who feel thus I would say this.

The surrender of Hong Kong and those four years of bondage were a passing phase of human history, whilst the Christmas message will live forever. I would therefore pray you to keep constantly in mind this Christmas message and you will find sadness disappear whilst proud memories may remain.

EVIL A NEGATION

For I am convinced that evil is a negation—like darkness, and can be destroyed by the light of Truth. When you bring a little light into a dark room the light destroys the darkness. The darkness doesn't escape out of the window or door to go and make some other place dark. It is just destroyed. In the same way the light of Truth will destroy the darkness of evil of all sorts, including sorrow and sadness. Think therefore on the great spiritual Truth which Christ Jesus revealed to the world and you will be strengthened.

To all of you I would say this. Let us this day resolve to work together for the good of all mankind. In the long run no-one really benefits by going temporarily at the expense of his neighbour, whilst if we all work together as neighbours of goodwill, everyone will benefit. We have a unique position here in Hong Kong—the Chinese and the British working side by side—each loyal to his own country, yet with a primary duty to the Colony which is our home. With wisdom and goodwill I am

Christmas Passes Without Truce

CHUNGKING, Dec. 26. CHRISTMAS CAME TO CHINA WITHOUT THE HOPE FOR TRUCE. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONFIRMED THEY HAD STILL NOT PUT IN WRITING THEIR ORAL PROPOSAL OF DEC. 19 FOR AN UNCONDITIONAL TRUCE, WITH THE POSITIONS OF BOTH THE NATIONALIST AND COMMUNIST FORCES "FROZEN". THEY EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPOSED TRUCE APPLIED TO MANCHURIA AS WELL AS CHINA PROPER. ASKED HOW MANCHURIA COULD BE REOCCUPIED BY THE CHINESE IF THE POSITION OF THE TWO SIDES WERE "FROZEN." THE COMMUNISTS SAID THAT ANY NATIONALIST TROOP MOVEMENTS THERE SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THEIR AGREEMENT.

Their proposed truce, they asserted, had not been put in writing because this had not requested. They took the stand that the offer they had made was good and firm and that no further action on their part was necessary until they had received the government's reply.

A Nationalist despatch alleged that the Communists plotted to seize the important rail junction of Shihchuching with the use of disarmed Japanese troops there.

It asserted that the conspirators called for the Japanese to synchronize a rising with the projected Japanese attack.

Another Nationalist despatch reported that the inhabitants of the Inner Mongolian city of Kweisui, capital of Suiyuan province, staged a mammoth celebration on Sunday to com-

memorate the lifting of the Communist siege. Features in

cluded a meeting attended by 100,000 persons and review by General Entwistle, commander of the 12th War Zone.

The Christmas celebrations in Chungking included a cocktail party given last evening by Brigadier General Russell Radford, commander of the American forces in Chungking.

It is developed a new belief in the powers of Santa Claus when 75 bottles of whisky arrived from Shanghai for them. The whisky was placed on sale at nominal prices at "Pao's" Pub. Associated Press.

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL SERVICE ENTERTAINMENT

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SEATS MAY BE BOOKED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE ONLY
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"JAVANESE PRINCE" (Operator C.P.R.) 29th December 1945

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C. N. Co. S. S. "KWEIYANG" ... 30th December, 1945

I. C. S. N. Co. S. S. "WINGSANG" ... 1st January, 1946

SAILINGS TO SWATOW

I. C. S. N. Co. S. S. "HSANG" ... 1st January, 1946

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C. N. Co. S. S. "NINGHAI" ... 28th December, 1945.

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PREPAID

3 Months	\$ 5.50
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TRY OUR BEST DRY-CLEANING
and drying service. Moderate
charges. Reliable service. Paris
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Street.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
ATTENTION! Andre's Beauty
Parlor moved to Gloucester Arcade,
Mezzanine. Expert barbers for
Gentlemen. First class perfume,
shampoo, manicure, face massage for
Ladies.

FOR SALE

IDEAL GIFTS. for Ladies and
gentlemen: pyjamas, shirts, dressing
gowns, neckties, handkerchiefs, kimono,
shawls, night gowns, handbags,
etc. Special prices at New Silk
Store, Kowloon Hotel Building, 2D,
Hawker Road.

TUITION WANTED

"SHORTHAND." Serviceman
requires increased speed in Pitman's
Shorthand. Present speed 50 w. p.m.
approximately. Tutor on Kowloon
side preferred. Reply Box No. 44
"China Mail."

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DRAWING, Painting Lessons given
for beginners, and advanced students,
Erne Freeland, Diocesan Girls'
School, Kowloon, Tel. 57172 from
2 p.m. 4 p.m.

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FORMER EMPLOYER recom-
mends good house, neat, honest,
clean and reliable. Please write Box No. 43
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ACADEMY. Physical Exercises,
Massage, Hot and Cold Baths,
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vices. ALL CORDIALLY
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ANKERS and GOLD DEALERS

We have come back from Luichow,
China and resumed business at our
old premises. As before we do
general banking business and
exchange of foreign money. From
now on we also deal with selected
gold ornaments and pure gold bars.

OUR MOTTO IS QUICK IN SERVICE
AND PURE IN QUALITY.

ANNOUNCEMENT

WISHING TO IMPROVE AND STANDARDIZE THE QUALITY OF GOLD BARS THAT ARE CIRCULATING IN THE HONG KONG MARKET, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED FROM THIS DATE A DEPARTMENT UNDER THE GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY CALLED "STANDARD GOLD BAR BUREAU". THIS BUREAU IS INCORPORATED BY THE NATIVE BANKERS AND GOLD BAR DEALERS. THE MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO DEPOSIT CASH SECURITIES AS WELL AS MUTUAL GUARANTEES FROM OTHERS. OUR AIM IS TO PRODUCE STANDARD GOLD BARS OF UNIFORM FINENESS TO BE CHECKED AND STAMPED BY OUR OFFICIAL SEAL. WE HOPE TO PRODUCE SUCH STANDARDIZED GOLD BARS IN THE MARKET SO AS TO FACILITATE A FREE DEALING AMONG OUR MEMBERS AS WELL AS WITH THE PUBLIC IN GOOD FAITH AND CONFIDENCE.

MEMBERS OF THE "STANDARD GOLD BAR BUREAU" ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

Wing Shing Loong 63, Bonham Strand, E.
Loy Hing 42, Bonham Strand, E.
Hing Shing 52, Bonham Strand, E.
Kan Keung Tsing & Co. 53, Des Voeux Road, C.
Fat Cheong 118, Des Voeux Road, C.
Hing Seng 112, Queen's Road, C.
Wing Lung 51, Bonham Strand, E.
Kai Kee 11, Bonham Strand, E.
To Hing 31, Bonham Strand, E.
Choy Kee 78, Bonham Strand, E.
On Tai

Ying Shou 46, Bonham Strand, E.
Kwong On 109, Queen's Road, C.
Wing Tai 90, Queen's Road, C.
Lu Hing Hop 12, Des Voeux Road, C.
Ming Tak 101, Queen's Road, C.
Cheong Kee 110, Queen's Road, C.
Tai Song 105, Wing Lok Street, W.
Wing Ming 87, Bonham Strand, E.
Wing Foong 71, Bonham Strand, E.
Nan Wah 20, Jervois Street.
Wing Wah 70, Wing Lok Street.

THE GOLD & SILVER EXCHANGE SOCIETY

Unrra's Big Plans
For New Year

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW YEAR, THE LARGEST RELIEF PROGRAMME EVER UNDERTAKEN BY ONE OR MORE NATIONS IN BEHALF OF ANOTHER WILL START MOVING.

RELIEF FOR CHINA WILL BE THE MAJOR ITEM IN THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION'S (UNRRA) WORLDWIDE PROGRAMME FOR 1946 AND THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1947.

It is expected that during these fifteen months approximately two billion dollars will be distributed in goods and services to war invaded countries.

Little Glass
Eye Tells
His Story

Yokohama, Dec. 27.—Prison Guard Tatsuo Tsuchiya admitted to the witness stand to-day he struck prisoners eight or nine times with his open hand, but denied charges of brutality, as the defense rested its case and Japan's first war crime trial neared a decision.

Tsuchiya denied prosecution allegations that he used his fists or blunt weapons against American prisoners and declared he did not recollect Private First Class Robert Gordon Tora, whose death he is charged with causing in a brutal beating.

The short, stocky Japanese, called "Little Glass Eye" by the prisoners, was on the witness stand for two and a half hours as the trial resumed after a Christmas recess.

The decision of the American military tribunal was expected to day or tomorrow.

Tsuchiya testified as part of his defense that injuries to his shoulder and hand in the China war, when he was a corporal, still caused him trouble, but under interrogation by a commission member, when asked how much food he carried to camp, admitted being able to shoulder about 18 pounds. Associated Press.

FIRST 100,000

Tientsin, Dec. 26.—The first 100,000 Japanese have been repatriated by U.S. marines from North China and at the present rate it is possible that all the estimated 360,000 in the North China area patrolled by the marines will be out in another three months.

During the period to Dec. 18, 25,000 Chinese were returned from Japan on Japanese merchant vessels and Navy L.S.T.'s (amphibious landing ships) which are being used to repatriate the Japanese. Associated Press.

Athens, Dec. 26.—The government here has re-nationalized all Greek cement factories and the big chemical fertilizer works at Piraeus. The action is designed to increase production as an initial step in the new reconstruction programme. Associated Press.

CHINA'S BILL FOR
OCCUPATION

Paris, Dec. 27.—France may soon react sharply over the bill China is sending her for occupying northern Indo-China. The French say the Chinese demands per month are more than indemnities the Japanese asked year ago.

The French are also irked at the Americans for helping the Chinese occupation troops go back to China before the French have enough troops inside the colony to take over. Associated Press.

TALK OF AN
OLD ISSUE'S
REVIVAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—A STATEMENT THAT AN "ISSUE" AROSE IN MOSCOW OVER THE REPRESENTATION OF THE BRITISH DOMINIONS AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE IS MADE BY JAMES RESTON, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE "NEW YORK TIMES."

He writes: The Russians took a firm line against the British Dominions, insisting that Australia, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand were not independent and could be represented at the general peace conference by the British.

Both Mr. Byrnes, United States Secretary of State, and Mrs. Bevin, British Foreign Minister, opposed this view vigorously, pointing to the fact that one British Dominion, Eire, had exerted independence to the point of staying out of the war altogether.

The Russians countered this by saying that if the British Dominions and India were admitted, various Soviet Republics should have separate representation.

Again the United States and Britain opposed this view by saying that if the Soviet Union insisted on trying to get six votes in a Cairo held, the police made a raid and arrested one member of the gang and the Greek and seized a suitcase full of drugs.

Detectors of Russell Pasha's Central Narcotic Intelligence Bureau entered into the purchase scheme and when the transaction was being completed in a Cairo hotel, the police made a raid and arrested one member of the gang and the Greek and seized a suitcase full of drugs.

The same night a strong police force raided the camp of a Jewish brigade at Kaffarim, 65 miles from Cairo, and picked up the other members of the gang.

Reuter.

CANTON WAR TROPHIES

Canton, Dec. 26.—An exhibition of war trophies is to be held in Canton from Jan. 1 to 6, at the premises which formerly housed the Kau Chung Middle School in Man-Tak Road.

It is the first exhibition of its kind since the end of the war, and a large variety of exhibits will be on display. Our Own Correspondent.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Two House groups plan to leave early January for Japan and various Pacific Islands. These groups will be seeking information regarding the strength of naval bases and redeployment of service forces and surplus naval goods. Associated Press.

Rudolf Hess Turns
Towards Religion

NUERNBERG, Dec. 25.—RUDOLF HESS, ONE OF THE FOUR NUERNBERG DEFENDANTS WHO PROFESSES NO ATTACHMENT TO ANY CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION, IS BEGINNING TO SHOW INTEREST IN RELIGION. AS PREPARATIONS WERE COMPLETED FOR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE GRIM, GRAY STONE JAIL, HESS INDICATED TO THE CHAPLAINS THAT HE WAS INTERESTED BUT SO FAR HELD BACK BECAUSE HE FELT THAT HE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CRITICISM IF HE BEGAN ATTENDING RELIGIOUS SERVICES ONLY AFTER GOING ON TRIAL FOR HIS LIFE.

Since the beginning of the Tribunal's holiday recess, several defendants spent most of their time studying to prepare for their defence. Most of the defence lawyers have gone home for Christmas and only a few visited their clients.

In line with previous plans, the prisoners will dine to-day on the ordinary prisoner of war fare eaten from the army mess kits. The ban on their receiving parcels still stands.

A field organ was set up in the chapel cell where the chaplain, Captain Henry Gerecke, of St. Louis, Missouri, will hold evangelical Lutheran services for 13 of the Nazi defendants professing that faith.

Some of them, however, had already informed the chaplain that they were not interested in singing Christmas carols because "we are too old for that."

Gerecke will read a story from the second chapter of St. Luke. Meanwhile, for the Catholic prisoners, Franz von Papen, Hans Frank and Arthur Seyss-Inquart, a mass will be said both to-day and to-morrow morning.

Kaltenbrunner, who is also a Catholic, is still in hospital suffering from a cranial hemorrhage. His condition was reported to be good. Associated Press.

HAVE IT YOUR OWN
WAY!

Chicago, Dec. 27.—The Municipal Judge here told Henry Mason, junk peddler, that he was going to free him on a charge of blocking the trolley with a push cart. Mason said he wanted a jury trial.

The judge explained: "You can go home. You are free."

Mason insisted: "I want twelve good men to hear my case."

The judge set the hearing for

Big Cairo Drug
Ring Broken Up

(By Haig Nicholson, Reuter's Special Correspondent)

CAIRO, Dec. 27.—THE CIVIL AND MILITARY POLICE HERE HAVE BROKEN UP A HIGHLY ORGANIZED GANG OF SMUGGLERS. IT WAS DISCLOSED IN A SERIES OF COURT-MARTIALS. OPIUM, WORTH \$38,000 WERE SEIZED FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF THE RING.

ALREADY A JEWISH LIEUTENANT, A JEWISH CORPOREAL AND PRIVATE AND A BRITISH DRIVER WITH THE RANK OF LANCE-CORPORAL, HAVE BEEN TRIED AND CONVICTED.

Another Jewish lieutenant and another private are still to be tried. One Lieutenant was previously tried in Palestine on a charge of being in possession of drugs but was acquitted.

According to the story told at the Court Martial, a military vehicle driven by a British driver succeeded in smuggling quantities of drugs into Egypt and when they did not get the sufficiently high prices they wanted, they decided to do the marketing themselves.

They brought a large consignment of hashish and opium from the Levant to Egypt and told the Egyptian ring, who were waiting for fresh supplies that their vehicle had broken down in the Sinai Desert and the illicit cargo had been seized to prevent detection.

RUSSELL PASCHA
INTERVIEWS

The Jewish military gang, it was stated, then asked a Greek civilian to sell for them all the drugs. He enlisted another civilian who was working for the Police and who disclosed the intended sale.

The Russians countered this by saying that if the British Dominions and India were admitted, various Soviet Republics should have separate representation.

Again the United States and Britain opposed this view by saying that if the Soviet Union insisted on trying to get six votes in a Cairo held, the police made a raid and arrested one member of the gang and the Greek and seized a suitcase full of drugs.

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Washington, Dec. 27.—

SENATOR JOHNSON, Democrat of Colorado, suggested that the proposed loan to Britain be financed by a special bond issue which he said would bear the loss if the British should default. The bonds would be offered to the United States public with an interest rate "exactly what Britain pays."

The people who buy bonds, Johnson said, would take whatever risk there is and accept whatever payment Britain makes.

He said that if the American people approved of the loans they should be willing to buy the bonds and if they don't want it "then the Government ought not to undermine it."

Johnson said that he intends to push the plan as an amendment to legislation in authorizing the British loan when it comes up at the next session of Congress. Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 26.—A democratic alliance of the Leftist group to-day entered the Philippine political arena and called a National Convention here on Jan. 27 to select candidates for President and Vice-President of Congress in the April elections.

Luis Taruc, pre-war leader of the Manila and Central Luzon labour unions, criticized High Commissioner Paul McNutt's recent statement that Filipinos are wavering on their independence demands.

Taruc, who was a Lieutenant-General in the Hukbalahap Socialist army during the occupation, said: "It is the American elements, Imperialists and vested interests who are against giving the Philippines independence."

Juan Ponce, Communist Party leader and other speakers at a mass meeting assailed both President Sergio Osmeña and Senate President Manuel Roxas. They said that Roxas favours the rich.

The Chinese representative at the meeting said: "The Chinese want the withdrawal of United States troops from China." Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 27.—

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY CARL VINSON to-day said: "A change in the trade-control-in-an-emergency step in the French programme of economic reorganization" is being generally recognized that the foreign exchange value of the franc is out of line." But Vinson in an open letter to Rono Plevon, French Finance Minister, said: "The franc is still the leading currency for

PROVINCIAL CUT

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PROVINCIAL CUT

Some qualms were expressed on

BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION, (HONG KONG)
LEGAL BRANCH
In re: Custodian Proclamation
No. 10 of 1945.
SALE BY TENDER (S. 339)

The Administration is prepared to receive bids in writing for the purchase of the undenoted equipment as it stands, at Ching Sar Wai Road, Shamsui Po.

One—Equipment for a Rice Mill, consisting of:—
1 Steam Engine 30 H.P.
1 Wood burning boiler
2 Grinding machines
2 Husks separators
1 Water tank
1 Iron siding door
1 Wooden frame, etc.

Permission to view can be arranged with Office of Custodian of Property, 4th Floor, Windsor House.

Sealed tenders in Triplicate should be deposited with the Chairman Tenders Board, Public Works Branch, Civil Affairs H.Q., C.S.O. Building (Ground Floor), before Noon 7th January 1946.

The Administration does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender.

R. A. WICKERSON,
Custodian of Property.
VICTORIA, 28th December, 1945.

BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION, (HONG KONG)
LEGAL BRANCH
In re: Custodian Proclamation
No. 10 of 1945

SALE BY TENDER (S. 339)

The Administration is prepared to receive bids in writing for the purchase of the undenoted machinery as they stand, now lying at the North Point Installation of the Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.

One Electric Generating Unit of Japanese manufacture, mounted on a common bedplate consisting of:—

1 6 cylinder Gasolene Engine complete with accessories.
1—15 K.V.A. 220 V. A.C. Generator, complete with switchboard.

One Air Compressor Unit of Japanese manufacture mounted on a common bedplate on wheels consisting of:—

1 4 cylinder Gasolene Engine, direct-coupled to a 2-cylinder air compressor 6 1/2" bore by 6" stroke, complete with 2 air tanks, air hose and accessories.

Permission to view can be arranged with Office of Custodian of Property, 4th Floor, Windsor House.

Bids are to be made per unit.

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The Administration does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender.

R. A. WICKERSON,
Custodian of Property.
VICTORIA, 28th December, 1945.

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Our Branch Office has opened temporary premises to Messrs Blair & Co., at French Bank Building, 2nd floor, and we shall be obliged if all prospective clients will communicate with us to that address during the present emergency period where they will be promptly handled and communicated to our executive who is now proceeding to London to ascertain full details and specifications with prices of latest models on all lines of our products—
Vehicles—Petrol/Diesel
Marine Engines—Petrol
Diesel
Boilers—Water Tubs
Motor Boats & Water Craft of all description.
Our Hong Kong & China Office is a Direct Branch of—
Messrs.

JOHN I. THORNYCROFT

& Co., Ltd.
Smith Square,
Westminster,
London

A Vote To End The House Of Lords?

(By Michael Foot)

SOME OBSERVERS HAVE TENDED TO CONTRAST THE MOMENTOUS DEBATES ON THE LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE "UNREALITY" OF THE VOTE OF CENSURE DISCUSSIONS WHICH PRECEDED THEM. DILETTANTE POLITICAL COMMENTATORS HAVE RUSHED IN TO PROTEST AGAINST THE IRRELEVANCY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONALISATION PROPOSALS AND OTHER PROJECTS TO THE URGENT PRODUCTION TASKS WHICH CONFRONT THE NATION. LOAN OR NO LOAN.

Will they never learn? Will they never learn the facts which Ernest Bevin so rightly emphasised at the end of his speech?

Britain's plight is not only due to the war. It is also the result of generations of industrial decline. If the great industries of the nation had been properly renovated in the intervening years our situation to day would be incomparably more favourable.

Most serious fact facing our people to day in the disease afflicting most of the industries on which Britain's industrial greatness was founded.

Coal, cotton, shipbuilding, agriculture, in all these industries and others besides conditions and prospects were so bad that men were allowed to

BRITISH MILITARY ADMINISTRATION, (HONG KONG)
FINANCE BRANCH
(Currency & Banking Section)

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Yen Yieh Bank.

With a view to making boxes available again for normal safe deposit transactions, holders of such boxes in the above Banks are notified that arrangements are now being made to examine the contents. The Public are warned, however, that a large number of the boxes have been forcibly opened by the Japanese.

Application forms, obtainable at the Banks concerned, should be completed and forwarded to Mr. A. Ritchie, Currency and Banking Section, Finance Branch, 2nd Floor, Mercantile Bank Building, 7, Queen's Road Central, on or before THURSDAY, 27TH DECEMBER, 1946.

The dates to be fixed for opening the boxes will be advertised late and box holders will be required to attend personally with the keys.

C. G. S. FOLLOWS
Chief Financial Advisor
Civil Affairs.
Hong Kong, 19th December, 1945.

CROWD DISAPPOINTED

A fairly large crowd which turned up on Boxing Day to witness the match arranged between "Montclare" and Kwong Wah were disappointed when the Montclare team failed to arrive because of imminent ship movements plus the drafting of ratings out of the ship at the last minute.

Although the Sports Officer of "Montclare" did his best to advise Kwong Wah, he was unable to do so, and the newspapers were closed for the Christmas holidays.

Lieut. McAllister, the Sports Officer, has asked us to express regret for the inconvenience to those who turned up and to tender his apologies.

Kwong Wah, also conveying apologies, ask all purchasers of tickets to call at The China Light & Power Co. Ltd., Argyle Street, for their refund.

In view of the uncertainty, the proposed "Triangular Series" is now cancelled.

We have resumed business.

Stocks expected very shortly.

Address:—St. George's Building,
Chater Road, Hong Kong.

Tel. 20186.

Dr. W. W. Ware offers his very best wishes to all his old friends in Hong Kong for a happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

ALL-AMERICAN ELEVEN

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.

"Ring" magazine named Willie Pop, the Connecticut clover who owns half of the world's featherweight championship, the "boxer of the year" for 1945. The magazine declared the international world featherweight championship vacant and dropped two recognized titleholders—Bob Montgomery and Ike Williams—fourth and fifth among 135-pounders. The top lightweight spot went to former featherweight champion Chalky Wright—Associated Press.

Have your EYES EXAMINED now and buy your spectacles specially made by

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LIVES UP TO HIS NAME

Miami Beach, Dec. 27.
A horse named Santa Claus was just what his name implied in the fifth race at the Gulf Stream track on Christmas Day.

He won the feature race in pay supporters \$830 on their \$2 win tickets. He paid \$470 to place and \$350 to show.—Associated Press.

FULL SOFTBALL PROGRAMME

(By "ONLOOKER")

A full programme of Softball League matches is down for decision this Sunday, at King's Park, and as team strengths are pretty even, forecasting results is somewhat of a problem. The "Playboy" Baseballers appear to be the strongest, although they will face a severe test when they vie for superiority with the Madcaps who are considered next best.

The following are the games for Sunday:—

Madcaps vs. H.K. Baseball Club—9:30 a.m. sharp.

Umpires:—"Sunburn" Omar.

Robbins and Nip Lum.

Way Foong Portuguese Association vs. Chung Hwa—10:30 a.m.

Umpires:—"Doc" Molthen, Nip Lum and Robbins.

Scorers:—Philo and Hugo Henries.

The line-up of the four teams will be from the following:

Madcaps:—Claude Hollands, Avichi Yannovich (Capt.), Sidney Hollands, W. Wilkinson, F. Hollands, Robbie Rocha, Tony Castillo, A. Remedios, Albert Leonard and B. Soares.

H.K. Baseball Club:——"Doc" Molthen (Manager), Abel Ozorio, "Capone" Rumjahn, Nick Beltrao, Arturo Ozorio, Tony Alves, David "Bambino" Leonard, Rene Sequeira, A. V. "Lino" Gosano, Stan Leonard, A. V. "Lino" Gosano, "Luigi" Gosano, "Baby" Abbas and "Jin-doo" Hussain.

Way Foong Portuguese Association:—M. Souza (Manager), Bertie Gosano, J. A. Soares, Gerry Gosano, Susan Brown, T. Goncalves, M. Xavier, A. Gutierrez, L. Luz and Enrico Rosario.

Chung Hwa:—Huckle Kitchell, Bill Hong Sling, Wally Ching, Johnny Chan, P. F. Choy, Dick Chung (Capt.), P. K. Lau, Herbie Quon, Junior Mar, David Lo and Nelson Mar.

Note:—The ruling that any

team failing to take the field

within quarter of an hour of the

time fixed by the League should

forfeit their games to the opposing

sides was adopted at a meeting of the H.K. Softball League held recently.

Scores were:—

Madcaps:—172 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Army:—130 (Lt. Calladine 34, Capt. White 32, Lt. Brown 2 for 18, P.O. Dale 2 for 28).

Montclare:—120 (Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Chung Hwa:—110 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Way Foong:—100 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Madcaps:—100 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Army:—90 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Montclare:—80 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Chung Hwa:—70 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Way Foong:—60 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Montclare:—50 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Chung Hwa:—40 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Way Foong:—30 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Montclare:—20 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Chung Hwa:—10 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Way Foong:—0 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Montclare:—0 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Chung Hwa:—0 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Way Foong:—0 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Montclare:—0 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

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Montclare:—0 (Lt. Burnett 66 not out, Lt. Morris 30, Mid. Davies 23; Maj. Evans 5 for 38, Lt. Ward 4 for 48).

Chung Hwa:—0 (Lt. Burnett 66

DESERTERS PLAGUE CONTINENT

Armed Robber Bands Menace To Central Europe

"QUEENS" MEET

London, Dec. 27.
The two "Queens" trans-Atlantic liners, "Queen Elizabeth" and "Queen Mary," exchanged Christmas greetings at sea on Sunday night as they passed each other. —Associated Press.

Garbage Work Inappropriate

MANILA, Dec. 27.
PTE. ROBERT W. YOUNG, FORMER EDITOR OF THE "HOMeward Bound," ARMY MIMOGRAPIED NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT LEXTE, TO-DAY WORE HIS FORMER T-5 RANK AGAIN BUT HE HAS BANNED FROM FURTHER EDITORIAL WORK.

Young recently wrote saying that seven ships were being refitted in Leyte to carry Japanese war prisoners home while only one ship was being refitted to return American soldiers to the States. His commandant forbade publication on the ground that the story would undermine morale and incite disturbance among men awaiting transportation home.

The article appeared not in the newspaper but was mimeographed on the same machine that the newspaper used. Young said the story was stolen from his desk and apparently printed by some one else.

He was reduced to the rank of private and put on garbage detail.

The incident became public and Lt. Gen. W. D. Stover, commanding the army forces of the West Pacific, ordered an investigation. He expressed the opinion that the action was inadmissible and referred his former rating to the story merited some disciplinary action so he directed the ban on further editorial duties. —Associated Press.

PATH TO PEACE

New York, Dec. 27.
Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, of New York, in his first sermon since his nomination to the College of Cardinals said that the only path to peace for individuals and nations was through a return to God.

Otherwise, he said at Christmas Eve during the Pontifical Mass, "We will lose the victory of America's ideals for which we fought, bled and died." —Associated Press.

THAT TRUCE OFFER

Washington, Dec. 27.
The Washington "Post" said editorially to-day that the truce the Chinese Communists proposed may merely be an effort by Mao Tse-tung to create a favourable impression upon the world. However, the "Post" commented, "Nonetheless, it would be a misfortune if Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and his colleagues do not accept Mao's proposal for cessation of hostilities." —Associated Press.

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BETWEEN 7 P.M. AND 9.30 A.M.

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20,000 In One Czech "Army"

PRAGUE, Dec. 27.
ROBBER BANDS COMPOSED MAINLY OF DESERTERS FROM VARIOUS ARMIES ARE ONE OF THE GREATEST PLAGUES IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO-DAY. THESE BANDS MOVE FROM PLACE TO PLACE, ROBBING AND KILLING WHEREVER THEY GO AND ON THE APPROACH OF SOLDIERS DISAPPEAR INTO THE DENSE FORESTS.

There are three specially notorious forces operating in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary — the Vlasov, Bender and Armin Krajova bands. Their total strength is a matter of conjecture but leading Czech authorities put the total of the Bender Band alone at 20,000 men.

Most of the Vlasov band, which concentrated their activities mainly in southern Moravia and southern Slovakia, have now been rounded up.

Composed of renegade forces of the Russian General Vlasov, who turned traitor and then tried at the last minute to redeem himself by attacking the Germans, these men terrorised many country districts and the untaught remnants even now make travelling dangerous after dark on lonely roads.

The Bender bands have recently infested parts of eastern Slovakia. Composed of Ukrainians, Russians, Hungarians, and a few Slovaks, they described themselves as anti-Communist and anti-Polish.

They are armed with rifles, pistols, light and heavy machine guns, have plenty of ammunition and are often led by German officers.

They are known to have wiped out the population of a series of small Polish villages and were responsible for the killing of 15 Jews in two villages on the Ruthenian border.

WELL SUPPLIED

In eastern Slovakia, they murdered the Communist members of the local national committees and have terrorised Communists to such an extent that many of them have surrendered their Communist Party badges.

The Bender bands appear to be well supplied with money including American dollars and English pounds.

They tell the population of the districts in which they work that they are operating against the Russians with full support of the British and American Governments.

The Armin Krajova or "Army of the Interior" is composed of Poles and now mainly operates in Poland, living in forests.

Members of this "Army" are responsible for much of the ill-treatment of Jews and Germans. —Reuter.

HOLIDAY TOLL

New York, Dec. 27.
The United States holiday weekend death toll topped 416 with 219 in traffic and 68 in fires. —Associated Press.

STRONG WORDS BY TURKEY

ISTANBUL, Dec. 27.
THE SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS

AGENCY "ANATOLIA" TO-DAY SAID THAT "NO TERRITORY CAN BE CEDED AND THAT ALL TURKEY IS READY TO THROW ITSELF INTO THE FIRE." THE AGENCY BRANDED AS "CRAZY" THE RECENT GEORGIAN DEMANDS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN THE SOVIET PRESS THAT RUSSIA ANNEX PART OF THE TERRITORY ON THE BLACK SEA COAST.

The "Anatolia" declaration apparently reflected local sentiment growing out of the opinion expressed recently by the Istanbul conservative newspaper "Taseli" which said: "Turkey will answer 'no' to all territorial demands and if she is told there will be war she will answer 'All right we will fight'."

The territorial demand was published in the form of a letter from two intellectuals of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and named in the Moscow press just before the start of the Foreign Ministers' conference. —Associated Press.

LAND-GRABBING RACE

(Continued from Page 1)
graduate educational course at

Baku, are now in Persian Azerbaijan. It would not be improbable to have them start clamouring for an autonomous Kurdish, which could take in anything.

There has not been any hint of this yet, but it would be an obvious move these days. The obvious geo-political move, to use one of Hitler's favorite phrases, would be to break off all Eastern Turkey from Dyerbekir. This would give Russia control of the vital highway from Trabzon across Erzurum into Persia and would place Moscow's power on the Syrian frontier.

However, it is authoritatively established that while neither Britain nor the United States have so far given formal indications of their views on the original Soviet claim on Kars and Ardahan, their official opinion is that the Turkish frontier appears satisfactory to them, and if Moscow wants a change it should ask for it properly in an orderly way before the United Nations Organisation.

Until April

It is an interesting thing to speculate on the fact that all this disturbance in one of mankind's oldest hearts of civilisation, while not in the least unexpected, began to erupt in full style while Generalissimo Stalin was vacationing in Georgia, itself not too many miles from the Turkish border.

The issue may not be pressed much further as far as Turkey is concerned at this particular moment. That depends on how satisfied Moscow is with the results of the conference now going on there. Technically, Moscow should respect the Turkish border until next April when the denounced bilateral treaty expires.

Whatever develops in this area it is certainly helping to solidify Anglo-French friendship and co-operation in the Middle East. The publication in London and Paris of policy statements emphasises the desire to avoid "divergencies" of policy which might impair their mutual interests. —Reuter.

CONGRESSMAN'S SUICIDE

Washington, Dec. 27.
Rep. Joe W. Ervin, 44-year-old

North Carolina Democratic Congressman, was found dead in a gas-filled kitchen Christmas afternoon. The coroner said Ervin had been at home alone. A friend found his body when Ervin failed to keep a dinner engagement. —Associated Press.

REPORTS FALSIFIED

Tokyo, Dec. 27.

The Nippon Sangyo Kozai, leading Tokyo newspaper, to-day declared editorially that reports of distress among Japanese residents in Manchuria and Korea were intentionally falsified and circulated by the Japanese "ruling class."

The paper said the purpose

was "to clear the ruling class of responsibility for the chaos following the surrender."

The paper quotes Takahashi Ichim, Director of the Korean Colonies Ministry, as saying that

"the situation in Manchuria

is not as bad as it is reported."

The paper said the

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